FREE INDIA

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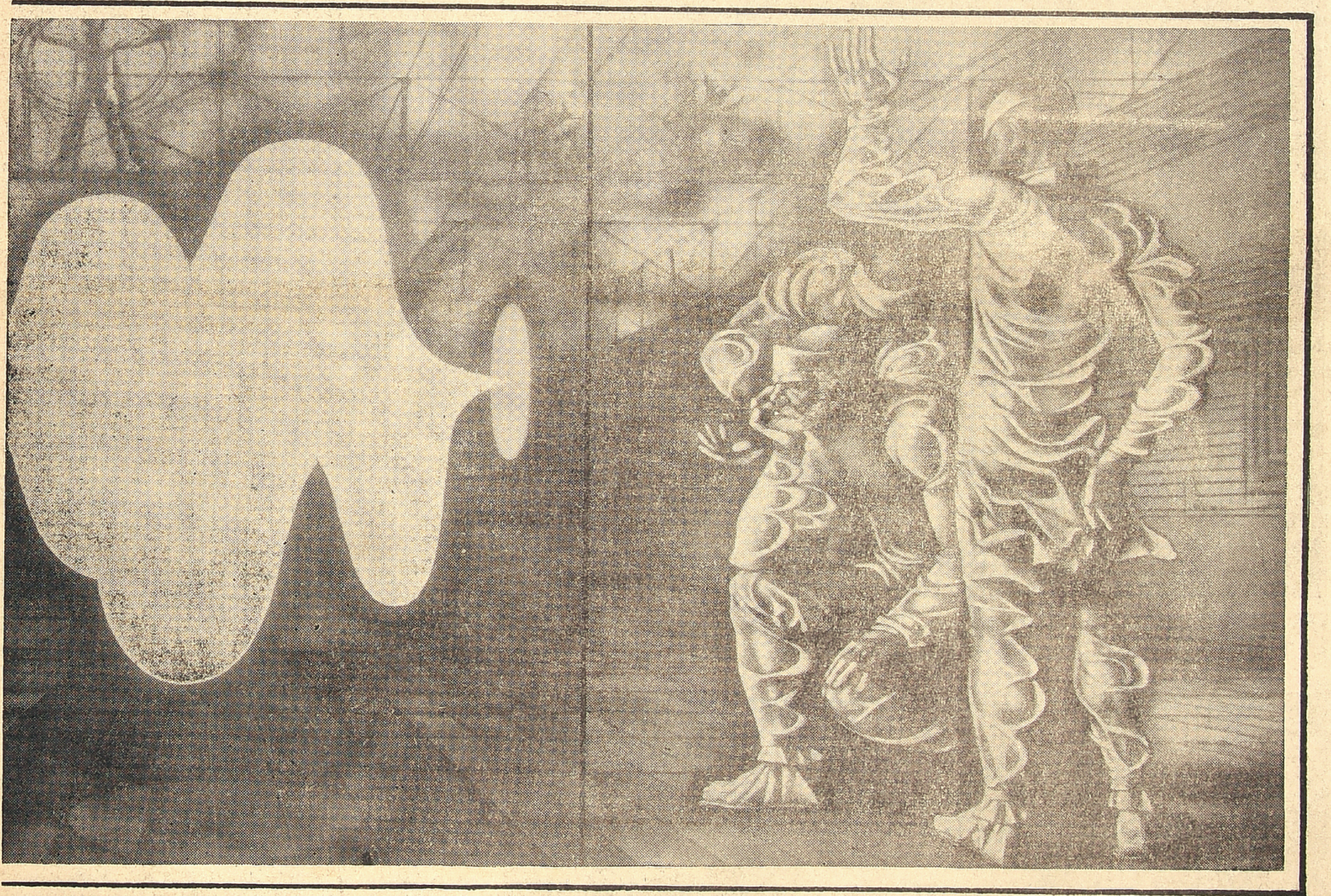

SCIENTISTS—AN OIL PAINTING BY A. STANKEVICHUS. (Report on page 11)

SOUTH INDIA'S FINEST PICTORIAL WEEKLY

These little ones are only a few days old. It is quite possible that they will book their passage to India in future.

Sheep-breeders and shepherds of various republics of the Soviet Union come here to exchange experience and to see new breeds of sheep bred at the institute.

Soviet-Indian Co-operation In Sheep Breeding

Recently an agreement was signed in New Delhi between the USSR and India on the setting up in India of two sheep-breeding and one goat-breeding farms. Soviet specialists will naturally participate in this work. The article below tells about the work of Soviet scientists in sheep-breeding and their cooperation with Indian colleagues.

A memorandum which V. Zarytovsky, M. Sc. (Agriculture), Director of the USSR Sheep-and-Goat Breeding Research Institute of Stavarapol, prepared for the USSR Ministry of Agriculture, says:

"At present research work is going on in India on the transformation of the rough-woolled and semi-rough-woolled sheep into the fine-woolled breed. For more than ten years the American Rambouillet was used for improving the stock while since 1970 Grozny-and-Stavropol breeds from the USSR were imported by India from the Stavropol-Kavkazsky and Sovetskoye Runo sheep-breeding farms in the Stavropol territory. Scientists of the USSR sheep-and-goat-breeding research institute are rendering valuable assistance in developing the sheep breeds imported into India from the USSR.

"In the course of nine months of 1971 six specialists from India received advanced training in the institute on problems of selection, stock-raising and the feeding of sheep. In 1972 four specialists received such training.

"They were given every facility to become fully acquainted with the work of Soviet scientists in the sphere of sheep-breeding, to study pedigree sheep-breeding at the best sheep-breeding farms of Stavropol.

"Indian trainees in the institute are highly valued in their country and are employed as leading sheep-breeders at places where merino sheep are being developed i.e. in Morvi, Srinagar, etc.

"Scientists in our Institute are always ready to render methodological and practical assistance in developing fine-woolled sheep-breeding in India."

The USSR sheep-and-goat-breeding research institute was organised more than 50 years ago. Today the institute has to tackle more intricate problems than it did 50 years ago. Livestock-breeders are changing over to industrial technology in sheep-breeding and everything connected with this transition is in the focus of attention of scientists.

Today the livestock sections are being organised with 10,000 sheep. The sheep are kept in well-equipped premises in pens. They have their own "canteens" and "exercise ground" as well as an artificial pasture. The sheep are fed, washed, and taken out for airing. They lamb at the livestock sections according to schedule, convenient for man. Neither cold nor snow can interfere with the pre-set cycle.

The Institute's staff has developed quite a number of valuable breeds which have been acclimatised to diverse zones. But every time a newly-developed breed has to change its locality, the scientists get anxious.

They were also anxious when they shipped sheep to India: would they successfully get acclimatised, would their wool turn yellow from moisture?

This meant correspondence, business trips and telephone calls. The first signs of success on the desk of the Institute's director were samples of the wool of Stavropol sheep acclimatised in India. This wool was brought by Indian specialists who had once again come to Stavropol:

"The animals feel quite at home and their wool as you can see, is of a fine fleece and strong...."

Viktor Zubkov, M. Sc. (Agriculture), on visiting India spoke very highly about the level of the work conducted in the country's public sector in the sphere of animal husbandry.

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People And Food--The Squeeze Gets Tighter

By JOHN A. HANNAH

(Mr. Hannah, Deputy Secretary General of the World Food Conference held in Rome is a former head of the U.S. Agency for International Development. A farmer himself, Mr. Hannah operates a farm in his native State of Michigan. Born in 1902, he received a doctorate degree in agriculture in 1923, and was appointed president of Michigan State University in 1941, a post he held for 28 years.)

THE experts estimate that at the beginning of the Christian era there were only about 250 million people in the entire world. Nearly 2,000 years later, in 1950, the world population had grown tenfold—to 2,500 million people. Now, in 1974, less than 25 years later, more than 1,000 million additional people have been added, a total of almost 4,000 million, and at current rates of population growth it will only take about 10 years to add yet another thousand million.

THE PROBLEM

At present population growth rates, world food production will have to double by the end of the century just to maintain the present inadequate level of diets. If we are to have adequate diets, food production must be increased two and a half times.

The problem for today, and for the balance of this century, is basically how to feed the world's hungry people until the world leaders and national leaders can find a way to stabilize population.

The only practical solution is to increase food production in the poor countries. Unless their agricultural productivity can be substantially increased, there is simply no way that the problem of feeding their hungry people can be adequately resolved.

Unless this happens, these countries could have annual grain deficits ranging from 85 million metric tons to 100 million tons in 10 years time. Even at lower prices than those prevailing today, they would be faced with food import bill of $16,000-20,000 million, far more than they will be able to afford. Beyond that, the transportation problems created by food shipments of that magnitude are not solvable in the years immediately ahead.

THE WAY OUT

The international community can help, first, with the problem of increasing the production and the availability of fertilizers. The experts tell us that the natural gas that is being "flared" — that is, being burned and discharged into the atmosphere continuously in the Middle East — has the potential of producing four times the quantity of fertilizer needed to take care of the gap between what we now produce in nitrogenous fertilizers and what the world could use. If these countries so decide, they could use this natural gas, combine it with capital technology, and managerial skills, and produce fertilizers cheaper than the developed countries can.

Second, new cultivatable land is limited, and much of the needed increase in food production will have to be achieved through substantial advances in agricultural technology. This will require a continuing emphasis on high quality scientific research, directed toward problems in the developing countries.

Finally, the developed countries plus the petroleum producers will have to do what they can to increase the financial or technical assistance.

THE STRATEGY

The Conference Secretary is proposing a two-pronged strategy at the World Food Conference now being held in Rome.

With regard to the problem of increasing food production and improving consumption, we propose:

1) A substantially increased investment in agricultural development.
2) A major increase in the use of fertilizers, seeds and pesticides.
3) Expanded international, national and regional research programmes, emphasizing problems of the small farmer in developing countries.
4) A major programme to provide credit, especially to small farmers.
5) A major effort to communicate better farming methods to millions of small farmers.

KEY ELEMENTS

The key elements of the strategy on world food security include:

1) A large increase in concessionary food aid.
2) An international or coordinated national stocks policy which will protect producers and consumers against undue supply and price fluctuations.
3) An international stocks policy which will provide emergency food security for the developing countries.
4) International trade policies that offer broader and more stable markets, especially for developing countries dependent upon food export earnings.

In this shrinking world we do not have the option of taking an interest in the solution of domestic problems or an interest in the welfare of the rest of the world. It must be both. The food problem is a world problem and the whole world must be concerned with the world's ability to feed the total population of the world.

Like it or not, this is one world. It is a shrinking world. And it is the only world we know.

SYNTHETIC MOTOR OIL

A synthetic motor oil is now on the U.S. market that gives better engine performance, longer engine life, increased gas mileage and less frequent oil changes, according to the U.S. developer.

ALL PROOF has no carbon or other by-products such as acids, sludge, and gum. The firm has tested the oil for up to 80,000 kilometers with only filter changes. ALL PROOF also cuts down on exhaust smoke pollution. The company's tests also show an improvement of two to three miles per gallon (0.8 to 1.3 kilometers per litre) in gasoline because of the high film strength and low coefficient of friction of the oil.

ALL PROOF, marketed by the Environmental Oil Corporation of America, 633 West Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 2001, Milwaukee, Wisconsion, USA, helps to maintain a consistent oil pressure because of its stable viscosity. It will not break down under high pressures and heat and eliminates hot spots on valves, hydraulic lifters, piston rings, bearings and other vital points.

THUS SPAKE
THE MAHATMA

I believe in the absolute oneness of Good and, therefore, also of humanity. I have always believed God to be without form. What I did hear was like a Voice from afar and yet quite near.

ASOKA SCENTED BETEL NUT POWDER

Free India

SUNDAY Nov. 24 1974.

FOOD

At last the Union Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, has some encouraging news to give to the people.

He has told the Parliament that the food situation in the country is easing and prices of foodgrains and other essential commodities are showing a markedly downward trend.

We have only the Minister's word for it. The people, especially the poor and middle class people, are yet to feel the improving situation.

He has aloso said: with our rivers of sweet water, inexhaustible reservoir of underground water resources, fertile soil and our sturdy farmers, there is no reason why we cannot become self-relient.

Mr Jagjivan Ram has also conceded that such was the national situation on the socio economic front that even in normal years large sections of people did not have the means to purchase subsistence food, let alone nutritious food.

It cannot be said that the Congress rule at the centre for more than a quarter of a century has not produced anything It has helped to produce unlimited supply of plastic goods, radio sets, TV sets, costly textiles, motor cars and many varieties of luxury articles.

The party only forgot the poor millions who ask for enough (cheap) food, some coarse cloth to wear and thatched shed to protect them from sun and rain.

Some six months back, the Prime Minister promised to put food production on a war footing. A good crop takes just four months to grow. But during the four months, the situation has only deteriotated creating famine conditions in more areas.

Centenary of Theosophical Society

The Movement And Its Achievements

By K. K. SHAH, Governor of Tamii Nadu

Ninety-nine years ago, 1875 on the 17th of November, a great movement to unite the world and to resuscitate the ancient wisdom of India was started in America by Col. Olcott and Madame Blavatsky. It was realised that unless the soul of India was rescued and India was restored to her glorious heights by securing its independence and by reviving her self-confidence, abject materialism which was destroying moral values would drag humanity to stinking depths. The movement, therefor, acquired a new dimension and laid the basis of a mass movement which flowered into a nationalist upsurge. In 1879, it moved to India and made a beginning in Bombay. Madras was made its world headquarters in 1882. Looking back over the long stretch of a century, the birth and growth of this institution unravels fascinating and inspiring panorama of development of the human spirit. When we enter therefore the second century, we do so with ligitimate hopes and expectations for a better future. Who knew then that the first meeting of Colonel Olcott and Madame Blavatsky—two dynamic and scholarly personalities with wide experience and high talent was destined to develop into a mighty intellectual movement. Colonel Olcott was more than prophetic when he quotes "I said, 'Permettez-moi Madame", and gave her a light for a cigarette; our acquaintance began in smoke, but it stirred up a great and permanent fire."

It is a glowing recognition of India's greatness and glory, her ancient wisdom and spiritual treasure-house that this movement found its home in India and especially in Madras, the culture capital of India. Historically, it is prophetic and politically it is divine. The founder and the followers, on the one hand, were very eager to study our ancient wisdom and spread its teaching and, at the same time, were conscious of the supreme compulsion of helping India to be on her feet so that foreign domination may not destroy their glorious hermitage of their devine culture and sober civilisation. The economic conditions and the political subjection of the people moved their hearts so much that they did not hesitate to support India's movement for liberation. Anybody who seeks support for this view has to read a passage culled out from the first issue of the journal *The Theosophist* published in 1897 and I quote: "If India is ever to be freed from her present humiliation of exporting the raw material and importing it again after manufacture, she must commence by imparting to her youth a systematic knowledge of those industrial art and sciences, the lack of which compels her to purchase in foreign markets goods which should in most cases be manufactured to advantage at home. To persist in the present course, while millions of her people are starving for want of employment, is more than a mistake— it is a crime. It is the more unpardonable when we consider the characteristics of her labouring class, a people of simple habits, docile and obedient, contented with wages that would not suffice for a bare subsistence in in the West, and patient in the extreme. Here, surely, one would suppose manufactures of all kinds could be carried on so inexpensively as to defy competition. That such is not the case is, we believe, entirely owing to the lack of technical education; and poorly as most of the Indian work of today is executed, it will inevitably be worse ten years hence unless timely steps are taken to introduce a system of education which, in the future will not only elevate the Hindu artisan to the level of his Western brother, but in some particulars surpass him; a system tending to revive the glories of that ancient time when India held a place in the front rank of industrial science and art.' Does it not agree with the basis on which Mahatma Gandhi built up a massive movement?

It is also interesting to recall that the Indian National Congress met on the other side of the Adyar river in 1884, immediately after annual convention of the Theosophical Society, and took the first step for the formation of the Congress. Mr A. O Hume, known as the Father of the Indian National Congress, was a leading Theosophist. Colonel Olcott had already started a Swadeshi Movement for the use of Indian handicfafts clothes and other products of indigenous manufacture. During the Indian freedom struggle, Theosophist in the United Kingdom were staunch and vigorous supporters of our cause. Dr. (Sir) S. Subramanya Iyer, who wrote the famous letter to President Wilson of the United States in 1918, putting forth the Indian case for freedom, was a leading member of the Theosophical Society. No wonder Theosophists all over the world came out strongly in support of him. Indian music, drama and the arts have always found encouragement from Theosophists overseas. Srimathi Rukmini Devi Arundale, who heads Kalakshetra spearheading the renaissance of Indian art is one of the foremost leaders of Theosophy today. The Adyar Library which is a wing of the Society deserves special mention, as it contains rich treasures.

Mrs. Annie Besant, who succeeded Colonol Olcott as President of the Society, gave a great impetus to the movement and stormed the national scene. Her services to India form a golden chapter of our history. It was from the Gokhalae Hall that she electrified the whole of India by her eloquence in highlighting the burning problems of India. Mrs. Besant's services to India were manifold. She was an ardent educationist and social reformer. She began a campaign for a system of education suited to our national genius and consistent with our precious cultural, spiritual and moral values. She promoted the cause of women and paved the way for increasing participation by women in national activities. It must be said to the credit of Mrs. Besant that she was the prime mover in influencing men and women of other lands in favour of Hindu thought and culture at a time when our own people were

(Contd. on page 9)

THE FAMOUS ASTROLOGER
(OFFICE ESTD : 1924)
Recipient of many gold Medals and Certificates from Maharajas, Judges and Notables, Annual life reading, monthly details Rs. 5/- 3 questions Rs. 2/- Horoscope or writing time required.
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From page 4

becoming strangers to their own religion and culture and trying to ape Western civilization. In the matter of education, she was clear in her mind that the guiding spirit of Indian education should be patriotic in outlook, should not be divorced from the essence of her philosophy and should take utmost possible advantage of western science and technology. This background which I have outlined, gives in a nutshell an idea of the impact of the silent work done so remarkably well by the Theosophical movement in the social, political and economic spheres on the people of India

This international organization is composed of men and women who are determined to promote brotherhood to fight religious, racial, and other antagonisms and to draw together all persons of goodwill, whatsoever their opinions may be. Their common search and aspirations are pure Truth and sublime Truth. They look upon every religion as an expression of the Divine Wisdom. Peace is their watchword, and truth is their ideal. That is why its objects are (1) to form a nucleus of the Universal Brotherhood of Humanity, without distinction of race, creed, sex, caste or colour; (2) to encourage the study of Comparative Religion, Philosophy and Science and (3) to investigate unexplained laws of Nature and the powers latent in man

I have been pleading from many a platform that the reason why Hinduism has attracted world-wide attention is that it is neither ritualistic in concept nor dogmatic in thought. It was wisely reinterpreted by the Theosophists when they said that all things in the world reveal a Divine Nature at work and that it is a part of that Divine Nature that reveals itself as force and matter and that all men are sparks of the same Divine Flame The yagas and yagnas of the Hindus are in fact scientific experiments. Occult Chemistry of Theosophy lends strong support to this view. It is on record that in 1895 Mrs. Besant and Mr. Leadbeater began a clairvoyant investigation into the structure of the chemical elements and came to the conclusion that the whole universe is the embodiment of a Divine Mind and that this truth would be clearly grasped only when the arrangement of the protons and electrons within a chemical atom was studied.

I had the pleasure and privilege of knowing the past President Mr. Sri Ram and now I am glad I have come to know Mr. John Coats very closely. I am convinced that the Society is blessed with a succession of stalwarts as its Presidents. I entirely agree with Mr. Coats when he says that "the great purpose of the Society as it moves into the second century of its work is still what it always has been—to work for spreading the philosophy of wholeness throughout the world, of which universal brotherhood is the inevitable expression in daily life."

Let us remember on this happy and historical occasion that a great Russian woman and a great American started this movement 100 years ago with the conviction that "there is no religion higher than Truth." After experimenting sometimes in diametrically opposite ways in social, economic and political fields, the innate wisdom of the people of both America and Russia is drawing them together to ensure stability at home and peace in the world. We are passing through a critical phase of human history. Family life is destroyed. Social structure is swept off. Moral base is eroded. Artificial living is increasing day by day and divides the world in antagonistic block. Theosophy had not become so relevant as it has become today. Theosophy conveys a message to the world that if men join to outlaw war, give up the armaments race, and use their resources in the service of the tormented world, peace will reign supreme and ensure their survival. The Theosophical Society, as an international organization, shows the way to the United Nations how by peaceful co-existence, mutual respect and understanding, the forces of peace and Truth can be strengthened.

Dr. Chandrasekharam

Fifty Years of Stage Life

Dr. V Chandrasekharam, doyen in the field of mono-acting celebrated his 71st birthday on November 16. Incidentally this year he complets 50 years of service to the nation through the stage.

Born in the year 1904 at Nellore, he took to acting even in his early days. He organised a juvenile drama group and staged plays in his house back-yards and entertained the families in the neighbourhood.

His first appearance on stage in a regular theatre was in the year 1924 in a puranic play in Telugu, "Chitranaleeyam," staged by a prominent amateur association in his home town, Nellore. He later played some roles, male and female in their plays. His first leading role was as Lingaraju in "Varavikrayam," which brought out the hidden acting talents in him and got him reputation for the first time in a Telugu play (1924–1928)

His first appearance in a play in English was in 1925 as Gonerll in "King Lear" staged by the Litarary Club, Nellore, formed for acting plays in English. In those days women's roles were acted by men only, and his fine figure and good acting got him fame. Later he acted Portia in the "Merchant of Venice," and the Queen in "Cymbeline and some minor men's roles. (1925–1929)

With Mr. Y.V. Rao (who later became a famous film actor ditector and producer) as his partner to act male roles, gave variety entertainments at Nellore and a few other places, he himself acting female roles in select two-character scenes from Shakespeare's Macbeth, Othello and Cymbeline and Sheriden's School for Scandal. This created an interest in him in travelling, and in acting before new audiences. (1928—1929)

After Mr. Y. V. Rao left Nellore for acting in films(1929) he could not find a suitable versatile actor like him to take part in such variety entertainments. He then switched on to solo acting to satisfy the hunger in him for acting and travelling.

He was a prominent member and also a Honorar. Secretary for some years of Sri Saraswathi Amatures, Nellore, an association devoted to varied activities and new methods of play-production. This group staged some full-length plays and short plays in English and Telugu Sohrab and Rustum, a full-length prose play, written by Sripada Kameswara Rao was his out-standing production. This was the first time for the public of Nellore to witness a serious play in those days when plays with songs and verses alone were most popular. It was indeed a great adventure, but the pruduction was so good that those that came hoping to get disappointed left with great admiration. (1930—34)

For many years he was an impotant member of the Andhra Nataka Kala Parishat a federation of amateur dramatic societies, and took active part in its activities.

FOREIGN TOUR

He visited China in the year 1953 and Russia in the year 1967 as member of cultural delegations of those countries.

Dr. Chandrasekharam is essentially an actor, a distinguished actor with exceptional talents in acting and a passion to entertain the people through his art. Making his first stage appearance in 1924, and after acting for some years in group plays in English and Telugu, and in his mono-acting performances, he began, in course of time, to write, direct and present stage plays for promotion of cultural values in society, and for the entertainment of the classes and the masses. The theatre is in his blood, and it is the only thing that matters to him most. He is an adventurer in the land of make–believe, trading new and unexplored paths and blazing new trails. He was (and still is) a keen student of drama acting and make-up, and found in them forces for the welfare of the people and also for spiritual advancement. He has been serving the country all these years through his talents and knowledge and experiences, which are varied, rich and ripe, and is an unacknowledged patriot of a different order.

Brezhnev's Visit And After

The beneficial effects of the visit of Mr. L. I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to India last year, were reviewed at the Soviet Land Round Table held in the House of Soviet Culture on November 20, 1974, to mark the first anniversary of the visit.

Mr. S. Narayanan, General Secretary of the Tamilnadu Branch of the All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation, in his presidential address said that Mr. Brezhnev's visit to India last November opened up a new chapter in Soviet–Indian relations.

Mr. L. V. Skryabin, Soviet Consul in Madras, described Mr. Brezhnev's visit to India as a memorable event in Soviet-Indian friendship and added, "the joint Soviet–Indian Declaration was rightly called a charter of peace and friendship."

He added that mutually advantageous cooperation on an equal footing has become an important factor in the everyday developments of both countries. Industry, power engineering, agriculture, space research, training of personnel and economic planning are some of the vital areas of Soviet–Indian cooperation, Mr. Skryabin said.

Mr. G. F. Kovalev, Acting Head of the Information Branch of the USSR Consulate General in Madras, welcoming the gathering at the outset said, "during the five days of stay in India of Mr. Brezhnev, the heads of the two states discussed a wide range of problems and signed a number of important documents to further strengthen Soviet-Indian friendship and cooperation and to the cause of peace in Asia and throughout the world."

Mr. V. Vijayabaskaran, Joint Editor of SOVIET LAND magazine proposed a vote of thanks.

Muscovite's Diary

Ivan Ivanov

BREZHNEV—FORD MEETING

Keen interest is shown by the Soviet people in the meeting between Mr. Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and the US. President Mr. Gerald Ford, at Vladivostok on November 23-24. Mr Spartak Beglov, a leading political commentator has described the meeting as a new landmark along the road to the further improvement of relations between the USSR and the USA. The talks, he says, will enable the two leaders to make personal acquaintance of each other and exchange views on major questions that are on the order of the day in bilateral relations, as well as on other problems of world politics.

The Moscow talks of the Soviet leaders with Henry Kissinger, made it possible, on the eve of a summit meeting in Vladivostok, to hold an extensive exchange of views of many of these issues. For example, they examined the problem of further limitation of strategic armaments. The two sides had already reached understanding to draft a long-term agreement on that subject, which is to follow the new operational interim agreement of May 26, 1972. This agreement which expires in October 1977, puts limitations on some kinds of strategic offensive armaments.

Meanwhile, the two sides deemed it possible to agree to a substantial further limitation of anti-ballistic missile system as well.

These steps which were taken about four months ago and take into consideration the inter connection between the developing of offensive and defensive types of strategic arms, were justly assessed as very important both in terms of the General slowing down of the arms race and in terms of further strengthening the basis of confidence between the USSR and the USA in solving the entire range of questions relating to strategic arms limitation.

The situation in the Middle-East also figured in the Moscow talks of Henry Kissinger. The Soviet Union, as has been repeatedly stressed, regards the resumptions of the Geneva Conference as urgent. It is well known that the Soviet Union considers that no partial measures can replace couple settlement on the basis of liberating the Israeli occupied Arab lands and meeting the legitimate interests of the Arab people of Palestine and their right to their national hearth.

* * *

AZERBAIJANIAN THEATRE GROUP TO TOUR INDIA

The Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic is scheduled to tour India late this year and the beginning of the next. As such, readers may be interested to know a bit of the theatre's history :

On January 12, 1908, posters appeared in the streets of Baku, the capital of the present-day Azerbaijan Republic announcing the opera "Leila and Mejnan" staged by the Moslem lovers of the theatre. An unknown composer by the name of Uzeirgadhihekov had written the music to the poem of the same name by the great Azerbaijan lyric poet Muhamed Fizuli. That laid the groundwork for the Azerbaijan Musical Theatre. But the path traversed by the theatre during the Tsarist regime was not smooth. It had no funds, buildings, props, stage wardrobes, scenery or professionally trained directors or actors. The fate of each production depended on the goodwill of the patrons.

The people's government adopted a decree nationalising all theatres, a month after the establishment of Soviet Government in Azerbaijan on April 28, 1920.

In 1924, Alexander Tuganov, the well-known Russian stage director was invited to work at the Azerbaijan Theatre. He rallied all gifted actors around him and helped them to develop their talents. It was under him that in 1925 the opera company was separated from the Drama theatre. That was an important step in the formation of the national muscial theatre.

At the same time, the Republic was tacking the problems of training professional stage directors and actors. For that purpose it founded the conservatoire, a theatre school and an institute of choreography, where prominent Russian instructors trained national artistes. The singers Frangiz Akhmedova and Rashid Beibutov, who made their debut at the time, are widely known in the Soviet Union today. Rashid Beibutov is known outside the country too—he sang in India, Burma and Sri Lanka. His repertoire includes the songs of different nations.

A little over thirty years have passed since the birth of Ballet in Azerbaijan. It may serve as an example of how art flourishes in favourable conditions. In the last few years alone Azerbaijan composers have produced several outstanding ballets on a variety of themes. The ballet "Chitra" after a story by Tagore, was written by composer and conductor Niyazi, people's Artiste of the USSR.

At present the artistes of the Azerbaijan theatre are preparing for a big tour of the South-East Asian countries. Talking to pressmen about the tour, Gamer Almaszade, Head of the Ballet group said, "we propose to acquaint our audiences with the entire repertoire of our ballet company which includes not only Russian, Azerbaijan and world ballet classics but choreographic sketches entirely based on folk dances and music". Indian audiences, he added, will be particularly interested in our interpretation of "Chitra".

* * *

COOPERATION OF THE USSR WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Over 700 industrial and agricultural enterprises in 45 developing countries are being constructed with the Soviet Union's technical assistance. More than half of them have already been commissioned. Among them are over 40 metallurgical and machine-building plants, nearly 30 metallurgical complexes, over 30 power stations, 150 agricultural enterprises and 115 educational establishments.

Since 1955, the USSR has helped train nearly 3,00,000 qualified workers. Thousands of students from Asia, Africa and Latin America are studying at higher and secondary specialised educational Institutions of the USSR and socialist countries.

These facts have been published in the book entitled "The 24 th Congress of the CPSU and Topical Problems of World Politics", issued by the State Publishing House of Political Literature in Moscow.

According to "Communist" magazine, the Soviet Union has trade contacts with 78 developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, most of which have concluded trade and payment agreements with the Soviet Union. The volume of trade with these countries increased from 1.7 billion roubles in 1965 to 3.5 billion roubles in 1972, that is, it has almost doubled.

Credits are usually granted to pay for the complex equipment needed for the projects under construction. This on the one hand facilitates for friendly countries to implement their plans of economic development, and on the other, conduces to the expansion on mutually beneficial terms of trade and economic bonds, imparting a stable and long-term character to the cooperation. Soviet credits, as a rule are repaid by deliveries of raw materials and industrial goods.

The Concept Of Average Family

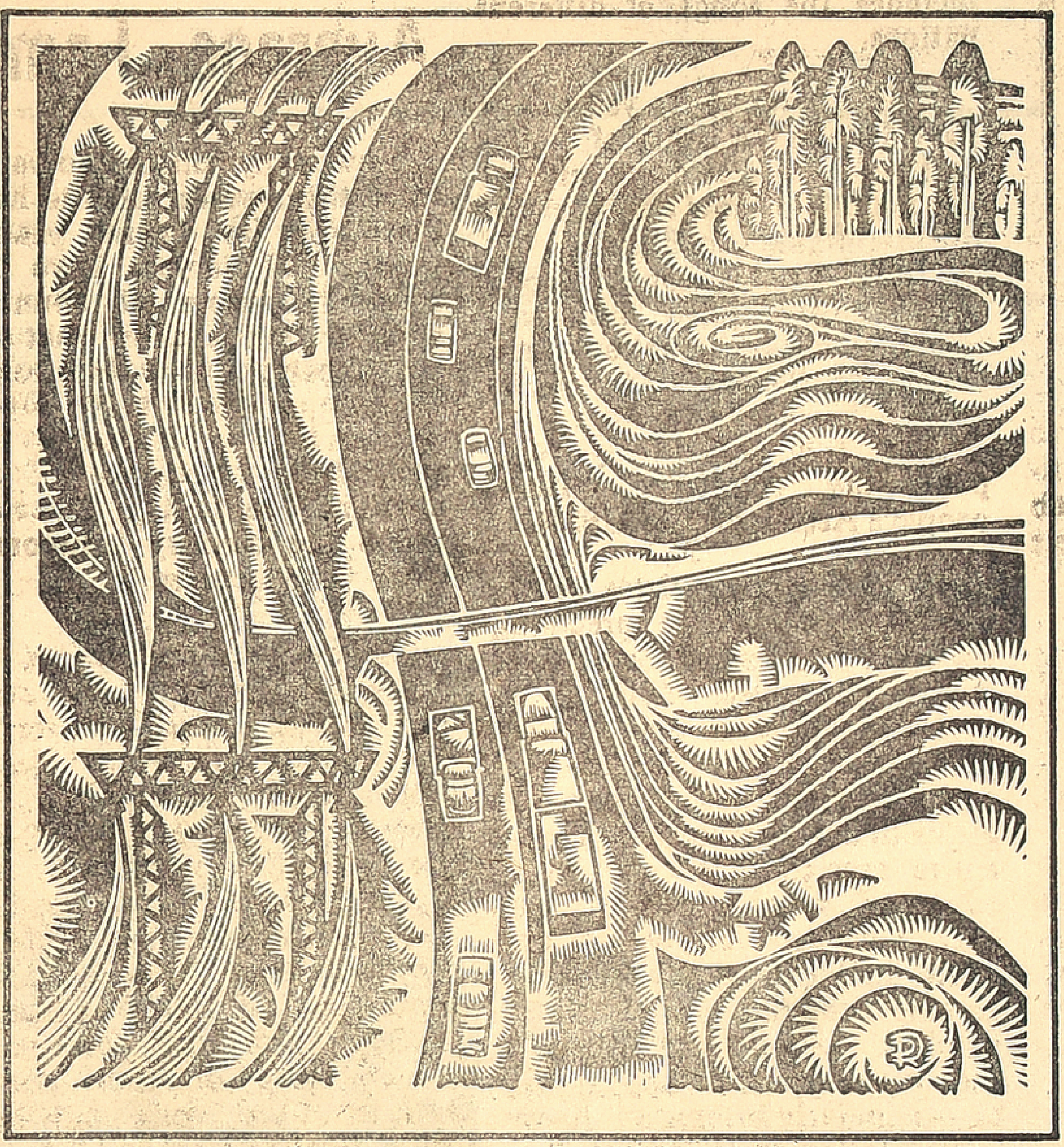
How many children do parents think they would like to have? Over the last twenty years, a number of surveys have been made in a score of countries, and the results show that most sets of parents want three to four children on the average. But it is also noticeable that as time goes by, the average desired size of family is falling, especially where the country is becoming more "modernized."

The causes of this change are many (and we are not really sure which are most powerful), but later marriages, better employment opportunities for women, better education opportunities for children and higher hopes for personal material improvement seem to play a big part. Knowledge and availablity of family planning methods also help, of course. About forty of the poorer nations of the world now have active government-run family planning campaigns, and many other countries have privately supported campaigns.

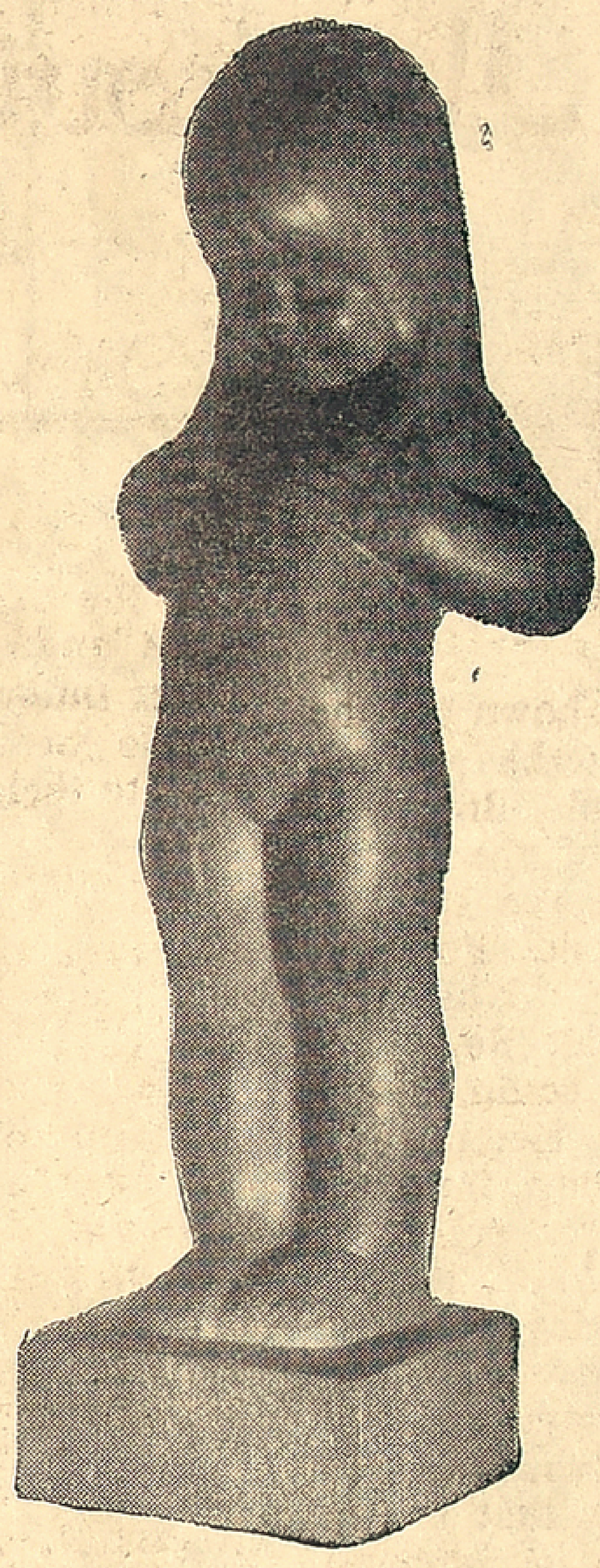
With fewer babies dying early in their life and with people in general living much longer than they used to the auerage planned size of family now makes a great deal of difference to the future size of the population because parents are more likely to achieve their plans.

For instance, if all the married couples in the United States had an average of two children from now on, the population would rise from about 200 million to about 360 million in the year 2070. But if they decided to have an average of three children, the figure would rise to over 900 million.

The exact "replacement family" for a population depends on the age-structure, typical age of marriage, and so on. But for most populations it is only a little over two children per couple, even allowing for celibacy, childlessness and infant mortality. How many of each sex? That, strangely enough, seems to take care of itself. Nearly everywhere, about 104 boys are born for every 100 girls, but the males die earlier.



D. Rozhkalns: Arteris. 1970. Lino Print.



A. Briyedis: Light Rain. 1968. Granite.

Latvia Pulsates In Canvases

Latvian artists have dedicated their brush and paints to the projection of image of the Soviet man. Among their works bathing in life-like beauty an enchantment there are quite a few large canvases depicting the life and work of the working class peasantry of this Baltic republic. In painting passages they portary land transformed by man, making this genre more emotive and effective. Their fascinating canvases exude love of and devotion to the native land. Respect for labour is a well-known characteristic of the peintures of J. Zarins, J. Pauluks, E. Kalnins and others.

E. Iltner, one of the most prominent Latvian painters, is distinguished for his keen perception of the present-day problems and quest for different forms of expression. A consistent account of people's life and work is given in J. Zariven's triptych "Winter Morning", "Maturity", "Autumn."

Latvian masters even turn to historical—not only for reminding us of one or the other event but for a deeper understanding of the spiritual and moral problems of our time, the malaise or the weltschmerzen. This is true, above all, of the works of painters like G. Strupulis and J. Zemitis who depicted the image of the great 'Lenin.' Interesting is the picture Alexandra Kollontai in Mexico by M. Tabak, dedicated to the outstanding states-woman of the socialist country who was Soviet Ambassador to Norway, Mexico and Sweden.

Works of Latvian sculptors are characterised by a high level of plasticity and monumentality. They try to attain perfection in their works and laboriously work out minute details.

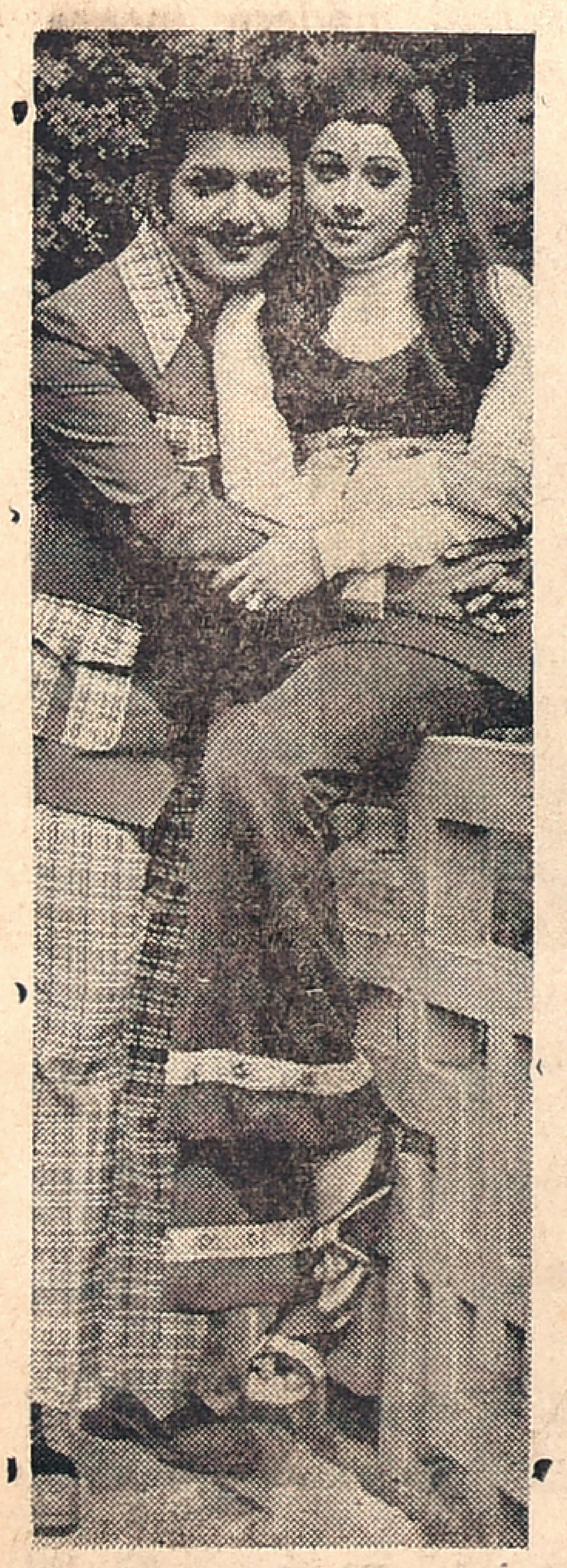
Latvian drawing is equally interesting. Critics have unanimously noted: "The desire of Letts to grasp with intellect what is not always possible to perceive with vision." One can't help seeing glimpses of great life in their drawings and admire their professional skill and, above all, their ardent desire to work out a synthesis between the national traditions and modern means of expression.

L. Davydova-Medene: Painter Biruta Baumane 1972 Polished Bronze

Film News In Pictures

Kamala hasan enjoving the company of Jaya Chitra in the film "Pattampoochi."

Sivakumar lifting joyons Pramila in "Thai Pasam." Tamil Film.



Jayachitra locked up in the hands of hansome lover Sivakumar in "Thane Sinthuthe Vanam."

Kannada actor Rajkumar, Telugu actor Saleem, Tamil actor Sivakumar and new face Manjula at the inauguration of the film "Pudu Vellam."

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